

BLONDIE



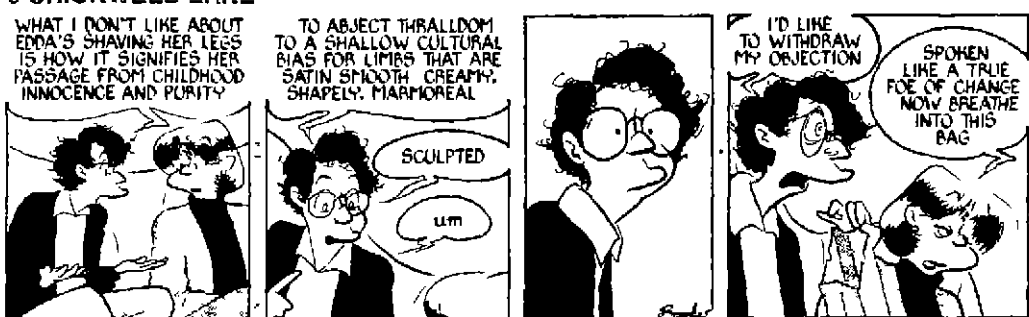
SALLY FORTH



THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN



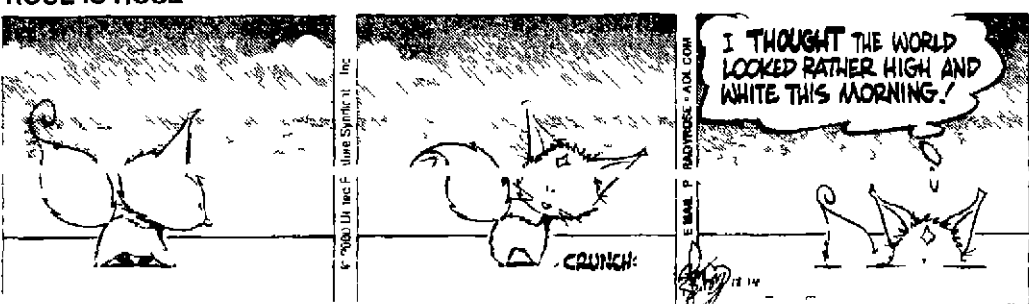
CHICKWEED LANE



JUMP START



ROSE IS ROSE



HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



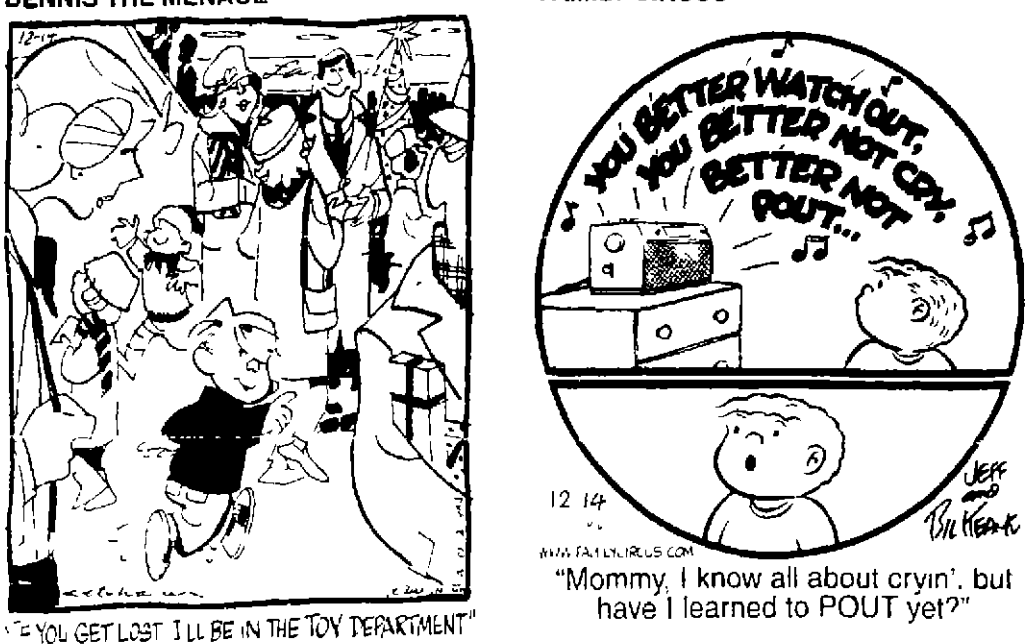
MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM



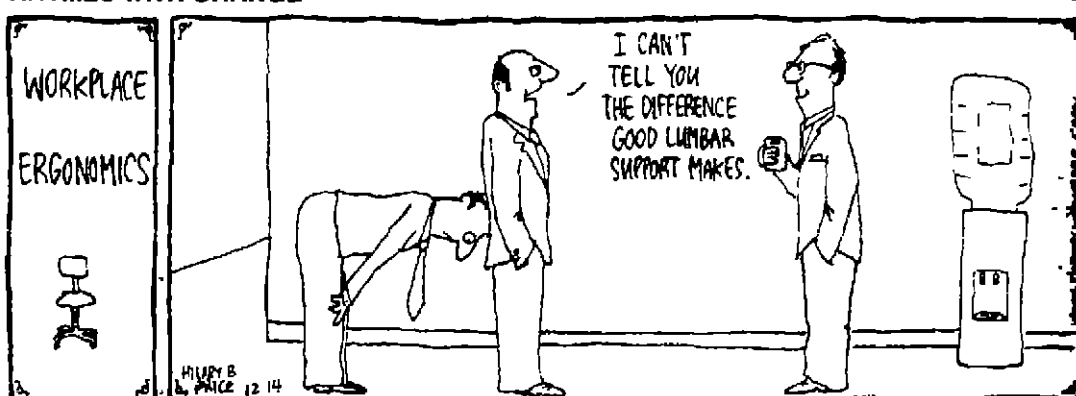
DILBERT



DENNIS THE MENACE



RHYMES WITH ORANGE



HOROSCOPE

For Friday, Dec. 15, 2000

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) Your energy level is high — perhaps verging on frenzied.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) Remain in a sheltered and regulated environment.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) Your communication skills which are normally well above average seem to be faltering.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) You've been a bit self-absorbed lately. Engage in conversation with someone interesting.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22) You are at the top of the heap, the center of the action or the front of the race, depending on where you want to be.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22) A minor whirlwind sweeps through your office and/or home, leaving much debris for you to pick up.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Other people might provide you with examples to follow instead of to avoid.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) You might be beset with minor conflicts and mishaps.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) There is nothing holding you back if you wish to travel near or far in pursuit of your goals.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19) If you feel as though you are fighting an intangible force, just stop the struggle. Things will calm down soon; in the meantime, you should conserve your energy.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18) Avoid hyperbolic actions; there's no need to go over the top. Now is not the time for heroic, impractical, brilliant inventions and the like.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20) Re-evaluate your ambitions, objectives and career paths.

RALPH



"The younger you train them, the better"

WORD SLEUTH

FOOTBALL SLANG

Z S Q P A G N I E L L U B A I
F T D A U O X V D T Q N O N M
J H I F D D C S I C U A E I Y
W U R L I D G P S R N L C K R
J K C A B E M I D A H F N S E
D B Z X L R V N N C P T E G T
R Q O T E M A K I K I T D I A
H F O D B P Z Y L B W V A P O
T O R Q M O N L B A K I C L L
B H F U D T N U O C G N O L F
C A B Z X W V U S K C A S R Q

Wednesday's unlisted clue: BUTTERFLY

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions — forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.

Thursday's unlisted clue hint: SLANG FOR THE FOOTBALL

Audible: Bullet, Dime back, Long count
Blind side: Bump and run, Flat pass, Red dog
Blitz: Cedece, Floater, Sack
Bootleg: Crackback, Gap

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12/14

For solution, see Classified.

ACES

By Bobby Wolff

After East's pre-empt, West tried to fog the issue with a fake three-no-trump call. All he accomplished was to goad his opponent to stretch to a heart slam. When West led the diamond king to dummy's ace South had to work hard to suppress a guffaw. Quickly he drew trumps and discarded dummy's losing spade on his diamond queen. This brought grimaces from West who was led to believe he had made the only lead to allow the slam to make (revenge is sweet). Afterwards West saw that either diamond lead would not have succeeded, but it provided little consolation. Either black-suit lead would have defeated the slam. Had West led a spade, the defenders would have scored a club and a spade. And if West had cashed the club ace, a club continuation would have given East a ruff for the same one down. Pre-empt is often effective and cause problems for the opponents.

WEST	EAST
♠ Q 10 6 5 2	♠ K J
♥ 10 2	♥ 8 3
♦ K 10 7 4	♦ 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3
♣ A 10 7 4	♣ 9

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
♠ 10 6 5 2	♠ 10 6 5 2	♠ 10 6 5 2	♠ 10 6 5 2
♥ 10 2	♥ 10 2	♥ 10 2	♥ 10 2
♦ K 10 7 4	♦ K 10 7 4	♦ K 10 7 4	♦ K 10 7 4
♣ A 10 7 4	♣ A 10 7 4	♣ A 10 7 4	♣ A 10 7 4

Opening lead: Diamond king

Cue bid, heart support

RESULTS

Bridge Studio: Sunday afternoon first Bill Barrington, Bill Pennington, Sunday evening first Judie Bailey, Janet Sinclair, Monday afternoon Novice/Intermediate Game, 1 NS, Art Johnson, Ed Karpinski, 1 EW, Sarah Fiorito, Sydney Howes, Monday evening NS 1A & 1B, Joanne Baccie, Cliff Donn, NS 1C Margaret Fens, Kay Mason, NS 2A Bill Barrington, Walter Dodge, NS 2B, Judie Bailey, Cameron Ross, NS 2C Millie Albright, Jim Durr, EW 1A & 1B, Shariene Kostichka, Mary Ryan, EW, 1C 2A & 2B, Louis Bashaw, Pauline Filsinger, EW 2C, Jim Inerch Jr., Jim Inerch, Tuesday evening first A & B, Shariene Kostichka, Mary Ryan, first C second B, Margaret Ferris, Kay Mason, second A, Ron Dewey, Murray Hall, second C, Louis Bashaw, Pauline Filsinger, Wednesday evening first A & B, Cliff Donn, Gerta Freimark, first C second B, Jim Durr, George Valette, second A, Al Bard, Bill Barrington, second C, Tucker Ausman, Larry Spooner.

Concord Aces: Monday morning 1 NS, Hannah Dussault, Fran Dussault, 2 NS, Barb Lorenz, Millie Tymann, 1 EW, Matt Brown, Ann Marin, 2 EW, Marilyn Ribyat, Shirley Simon.

Liverpool Duplicate Bridge Club: Wednesday morning 1 NS, Irvy Butcher, Howard Johndrow, 2 NS, Katherine Worthen, Barbara Reinschmidt, 1 EW, Fran Dussault, Gerry Wurdinger, 2 EW, Bib Latham, Louise Staring.

Onondaga Bridge Association: Saturday noon, Over all first Sallie Jameson, Fran LeBoeuf, second Ellen Ryan, Anne Schmach.

Radisson Bridge Club: first, Gerald ne Nett, Pat Roe, second, Linda Austin, Cameron Ross.

Stonehedge Duplication Bridge Club: Tuesday morning 1 NS, Anne Divers, Sally Wright, 2 NS, Lorie Desrusseaux, Jackie Viggiano, 1 EW, Joan Liddle, Louise Staring, 2 EW, Helen Kelly, Eleanor Peters.

Suburbanites: Friday morning 1 NS, Barbara Reinschmidt, Mary Ryan, 2 NS, Evie Schall, May Lou Famulare, 1 EW, Bonnie Percival, Carole Neuburger, 2 EW, Ellen Ryan, Mary Ann Finn.

Syracuse Contract Duplicate Bridge Club: 99er game, Tuesday morning first Robert Thor, Carolyn Perry, second Jean Stedding, Isabel Carter, Wednesday evening Novice first Julie Hurtenstein, Vera Hundshamer, second Bob Thor, Jeff Riddle, Open 1 NS, Ellen Ryan, Anne O'Brien, 2 NS, Carole & Fred Neuburger, 1 EW, Dan Boye, Stephanie Heather, 2 EW, John Hemmer, Fred Peseil, Thursday noon first Larry Sunser, Joe Fortino, Thursday evening first Ron Dewey, Doug Lyon, Sunday afternoon, first Shariene Kostichka, Mary Ryan.

Western Hills Duplicate Bridge Club: Thursday morning 1 NS, Ronnie Capraro, Mary Walsh, 2 NS, Mary Fitzipaldi, Golde Walczyk, 1 EW, Pat Hill, Joan Shibel, 2 EW, Gerry Burns, Millie Tymann.

N.Y. TIMES CROSSWORD

No 1102

ACROSS

1 Unaccompanied

5 Bob Seger's "Go! Tom!"

9 Patrick Dennis's "271"

13 Pseudo-synthetic

14 Regarding

16 Xerox infert. abbr.

17 With 6-Down, doctor's observation

20 "Finlandia" composer

21 Spring nymph

22 Paderewski's "Minuet"

23 1993 standoff site

24 One of his listeners got out off

26 Bowling ball material

32 Aika dweller

33 Gives the coup de grace

35 Mathematician's "to-do"

36 Lamentation

37 Authoritative term

38 O.R. dongs

39 Croak

40 Harry Karmel's whodunit hero, a g

41 Leaf collection?

42 1974 World's Fair site

44 Not barren

46 29- or 30-day month

47 ____ Menz

48 When Revere made that ride

50 Onions' kn

55 See 23-Down

57 Crowning point

58 Urinarian city

59 Mexican child

60 "Pow!"

61 Quarterback's tactic

62 Unduly interested

DOWN

1 Word after "he" and "she"

2 "Star Trek T.N.G." role

3 Swift's "The Tale of ____"

4 Circular course

5 On the decline

6 See 17-Across

7 11/11 honoree

8 Chang's closest relative

9 Parliamentary proposal

10 Orator's portion

11 Attention

12 Onocaur's start

16 Like a good debater's arguments

18 "Four Quartets" poet

19 Fiesta fare

23 With 55-Across, patient's reply

24 Soloists' lead-ins, maybe

25 Knocked for ____

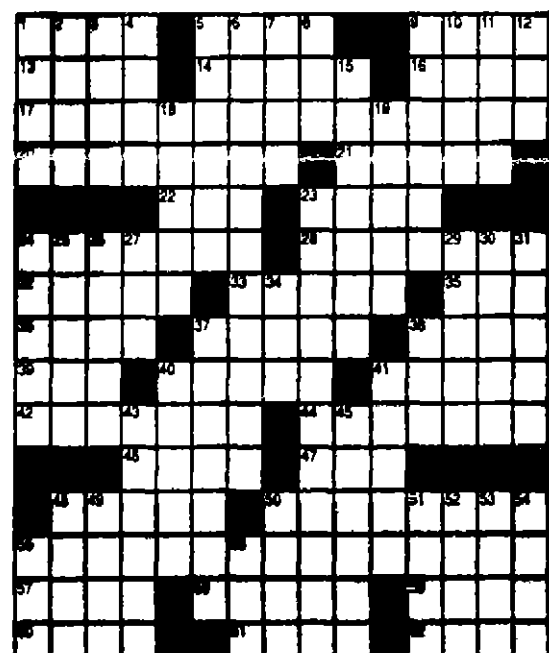
26 "Rad!"

27 Automatic, for one

29 "Uncle"

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

MADE LETHAL YUAN
OPAL AYLAU ILU
DEAL NAACP POND
XMARKSTHESPOY
SUI RAID
BRA DEB DOG STP
RANGEROVER APAR
ADDER OIL QUOTE
KAYE OEDIPUSREX
ERR SAD SRA TRY
OUST AEL
DONTMINDIFIDO
TONI EMIRS BEAG
STEY ARNIS ESAY
KEYS LEAPS LILY



Puzzle by Henry Mates

36 It borders la mer

37 Barely defeated

38 Fall back

39 Sans freshness

40 ____ juns (legal phrase)

41 They meet in the middle

42 Reservation

43 First name in the N.B.A. once

45 Oater props

46 Coyly roughish

49 Reebok rival

50 Actress Ward

51 Spacak biopic role

52 Where Ivory soap and the pop-top can were invented

53 Responds to UV rays

54 Reinforcement

55 Spotted, to Tweety

56 Napkin holder

Answers to any three clues in this puzzle are available by touch-tone phone 1-900-420-5656 (95¢ per minute).

Annual subscriptions are available for the best of Sunday crosswords from the last 50 years 1-888-7 ACROSS